

What is claimed is:

1. A picture processing apparatus, comprising:  
determining means for determining whether or  
not an input video signal is a signal of which a non-  
picture portion is added to the periphery of an  
effective picture area; and  
picture processing means for extracting a  
signal of the effective picture area from the input  
video signal, adjusting the picture size using the  
signal of the effective picture area, and combining the  
picture when the determined result of said determining  
means represents that the input video signal is a  
signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the  
periphery of the effective picture area.

15 2. The picture processing apparatus as set forth  
in claim 1,

wherein said picture processing means  
performs a multiple-picture displaying process for  
adjusting the picture sizes of a plurality of input  
video signals of a plurality of sources and combining  
pictures corresponding to the plurality of input video  
signals of the plurality of sources on the background  
screen.

20 3. The picture processing apparatus as set forth  
in claim 1,

wherein said picture processing means  
performs a reduced picture displaying process for

reducing the picture size of the input video signal and combining the reduced picture on the background screen.

4. The picture processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

5 wherein said determining means determines whether or not the input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of the effective picture area corresponding to information of an interface to which the input video signal is input.

10 5. The picture processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

15 wherein said determining means determines whether or not the input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of the effective picture area corresponding to information superimposed with or added to the input video signal.

20 6. The picture processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

25 wherein said determining means detects a non signal portion of the input video signal and determines whether or not the input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of the effective picture area.

7. The picture processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

wherein said determining means determines  
whether or not the input video signal is a signal of  
which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery  
of the effective picture area corresponding to  
information contained in a transport stream that is  
transmitted.

8. A picture processing method, comprising the  
steps of:

(a) determining whether or not an input video  
signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is  
added to the periphery of an effective picture area;  
and

(b) extracting a signal of the effective  
picture area from the input video signal, adjusting the  
picture size using the signal of the effective picture  
area, and combining the picture when the determined  
result at step (a) represents that the input video  
signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is  
added to the periphery of the effective picture area.

9. The picture processing method as set forth in  
claim 8,

wherein step (b) is performed by adjusting  
the picture sizes of a plurality of input video signals  
of a plurality of sources and combining pictures  
corresponding to the plurality of input video signals  
of the plurality of sources on the background screen.

10. The picture processing method as set forth in

claim 8,

wherein step (b) is performed by reducing the picture size of the input video signal and combining the reduced picture on the background screen.

5 11. The picture processing method as set forth in claim 8,

wherein step (a) is performed corresponding to information of an interface to which the input video signal is input.

10 12. The picture processing method as set forth in claim 8,

wherein step (a) is performed corresponding to information superimposed with or added to the input video signal.

15 13. The picture processing method as set forth in claim 8,

wherein step (a) is performed by detecting a non-signal portion of the input video signal and determining whether or not the input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of the effective picture area.

20 20 14. The picture processing method as set forth in claim 8,

wherein step (a) is performed corresponding to information contained in a transport stream that is transmitted.